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atives of the chamber of mines, and certain government experts. The town council of Johannesburg has voted \$25,000 for the initial expenses of the commission. A cordon has been drawn round the coolie quarter where the epidemic originated and it is said that as soon as the inmates can be removed the quarter is to be burned to the ground. The whole town is to be subjected to strict sanitary supervision. Chinese are prohibited from leaving the town without a permit.

Health of Italian and other cities.

According to a report of the local office of hygiene and public sanitation of Naples, the rate of mortality per 10,000 inhabitants from acute infectious disease during the last quarter of the year 1903 for certain cities was as follows: Naples, 4; Turin, 6.43; Genoa, 5.14; Rome, 7.41; Milan, 9.89; Venice, 8.47; Trieste, 9.20; Nice, 7.16; Paris, 6.55; Brussels, 8.31; Berlin, 6.58; Vienna, 7.02; London, 11.33; Monaco, 6.19; Budapest, 15.31, and Madrid, 30.62. The mortality figures for pulmonary tuberculosis for each 10,000 inhabitants are given as follows: Naples, 15.88; Rome, 17.15; Milan, 23.27; Turin, 23.58; Genoa, 25.12; London, 15.97; Brussels, 17.31; Berlin, 19.81; Trieste, 38.75; Nice, 32.04; Paris, 38.97; Vienna, 34.14, and Budapest, 33.54.

Meteorological conditions.

The monthly meteorological bulletin of Naples shows that the mean annual temperature of Naples is 16.43°C . The mean for the warmest month, namely, July, is 34.94°C ., and for the coldest month, January, 8.64°C . According to the report, the mean interdiurnal variation of temperature, which occurs in the month of May, is 1.3°C . The minimum is 8°C ., and the maximum 4.9°C . An interdiurnal variation exceeding 2°C . does not occur in 56.4 days during the year, and one exceeding 4° happens 4.9 days only. An interdiurnal variation of more than 4° is a rarity.

Inspection of vessels—Plague report, Hongkong—Plague in Johannesburg and Bombay.

Week ended April 9, 1904.

NAPLES.

Date.	Name of ship.	Destination.	Steerage passengers inspected and passed.	Pieces of large baggage inspected and passed.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.	Number of steerage passengers recommended for rejection.
Apr. 6	Sardegna	New York	865	45	915	7
7	Equita	do	853	40	1,218	20
8	Canopic	Boston	1,658	250	1,921	24
9	Italia	New York	1,426	130	1,419	22
9	Napolitan Prince	do	403	35	705	11

Plague report from Hongkong.

An account of the efforts of the colonial authorities to cooperate with the Chinese inhabitants of Hongkong is given by Sir Henry

Blake, governor of Hongkong. The report has been issued as a parliamentary paper in the colonial reports. The following is extracted from the report:

To understand the reason that impelled me to undertake this work it is necessary to remember that for ten years Hongkong has been scourged by this disease, that no efforts of sanitation have so far decreased its incidence or diminished its virulence, and that the proportion of cases found "dumped" in the streets or on the hillsides increased from 25.1 per cent in 1898 to 32.7 per cent in the present year. The increase of the practice of thus depositing dead bodies I attribute to the dread of the disinfecting process as carried out by the sanitary authorities.

* * * * *

To allay this feeling I had a meeting of the principal civil medical officer, the acting medical officer of health, and the Chinese members of the sanitary board, and arranged with them that in each health district the inhabitants should appoint a kai-fong or committee, and that in every case of disinfection notice should be sent to the kai-fong, two members of which, with the sanitary inspectors, should form a committee to appraise there and then any damage done and give a joint certificate of the amount, which the sanitary board undertook to pay. It was also announced by leaflets distributed among the Chinese that in all cases where sickness was timely reported all the expense of disinfection would be borne by the government. This had no appreciable effect in diminishing the number of dumped bodies, and it was evident that the passive resistance of the Chinese continued.

This was shown by the fact that when rat traps were set in Chinese houses the traps were found to be sprung, as the finding of an infected rat resulted in the same inconvenience as followed the discovery of a case of plague; still, large numbers of rats were delivered to the mortuary for examination, 88,862 having been paid for from January 1 to July 13 this year, of which 3,476 or 3.9 per cent were found to be infected. Each rat had a label attached showing the house or place where found, and where the address of the house was given that house was duly disinfected. Again, I heard whispers, of which no proof could be given, that the rat catchers levied a respectable toll by hinting at the probability of a plague rat being found about the premises in the absence of a tangible evidence of good will, and, on at least one occasion, indignant protest was made by the householder subjected to disinfection that no rat had been caught in his house and no trap had been set there.

I had requested that certain experiments should be carried out with rats, but although 2,000 rats per week were being returned and paid for, Doctor Hunter, the Government bacteriologist, found a difficulty in obtaining the live rats that he required. This probably aroused suspicions, and resulted in the following minutes of the acting medical officer of health:

1. A large sum of money is now paid in bonus for rats collected in the streets.
2. A ridiculously small number of rats are caught in houses.
3. There is no way at present of making sure that the addresses given of rats caught are correct, as foremen and coolies are not to be trusted. In support of this I may mention that Inspector Allen found some little time since a group of rat catchers sorting out rats in a back lane and putting on address tickets promiscuously.
4. There is a suspicion that the coolies have given wrong addresses out of revenge in order that a house might be disinfected. It has not been possible to prove this, but it is clear that this might be done.
5. The bonus of 5 cents for each rat is probably the incentive to the importation of rats. It is highly probable that a brisk trade in rats has been going on. It would no doubt pay to bring rats into the city from outlying villages and from boats and even from Macao and Canton. Inspector Reidie has reported that he heard of a meeting of rat catchers at Possession Point, where rats arrived in parcels and were distributed. He was too late to catch them, but these rumors have the color of truth.

* * * * *

The problem before us is, then, not simply the prevention of introduction of plague from without, a precaution taken singly that, considering the wide infection of the city, must be futile, but the elimination of the media of infection in our midst and the building up of the power of resistance to plague invasion by improvement in the general health of the population that may result from improved sanitary conditions. The first can only be accomplished by constant, unremitting attention to cleanliness of person, furniture, and premises, and to be effectual it is of cardinal importance that the cooperation of the people be secured. With proper facilities afforded I am of opinion that, while in Hongkong as elsewhere, the residuum might be difficult to deal with at first, the difficulties are not insurmountable, and practical cooperation

might be secured by enlisting the sympathies and services of the large class of respectable Chinese in a determined effort to combat the recurring epidemic, the evils of which they fully recognize.

Bubonic plague in the Transvaal.

Telegrams from Johannesburg state that, on March 28, 8 fresh cases of suspected bubonic plague were reported in that city, 3 of them white persons, with no deaths; that on March 29, 4 cases were reported, all among natives, with 1 death; and on March 30, 6 cases, all natives, with 2 deaths.

At Pretoria, March 29, a white victim of bubonic plague was found in the heart of the city, this being the second case at Pretoria.

No bubonic plague at Mauritius.

The officer administering the government of Mauritius reports that there were no cases of plague on the island during the week ended March 24, and the epidemic may be considered as terminated.

INDIA.

Report from Bombay—transactions of service—mortality—arrival of U. S. S. Buffalo and torpedo flotilla.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Hume reports, April 1 and 2, as follows:

During the week ended March 26, 1904, sanitary certificate was granted to one shipment of 3,000 baskets of onions forwarded per steamship *Marquis Bacqueham*, Manila. The certificate stated that the onions were grown on the highlands of the Deccan, a place free from cholera, and that they were thoroughly suitable for human use.

Mortality in Bombay—Plague and smallpox.

	Week of Mar. 22, 1904.	Week of Mar. 24, 1903.	Mean of 5 previous years in same week.
Deaths from plague	829	1,270	1,026
Attacks—plague	925		
Death rate—plague	55.55	85.10	68.75
Deaths—smallpox	14	85	55
Deaths—cholera	0	1	5
Total mortality	1,389	1,984	2,221
Death rate for city	93.07	132.94	145.39

Population, 776,006. No deaths from cholera or typhus.

Week ended March 29, 1904:

Deaths from plague (1,072 cases)	972
Death rate—plague	65.13
Deaths—smallpox	23
Total deaths	1,531
Total death rate	102.59

No deaths from cholera or typhus.

No transactions during the week.